



KIM REYNOLDS  
GOVERNOR

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ADAM GREGG  
LT GOVERNOR

December 27, 2019

Mr. Robert Manfred  
Commissioner  
Major League Baseball  
245 Park Avenue, 31<sup>st</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10167

Dear Commissioner Manfred,

It has been brought to my attention that Major League Baseball (MLB) has proposed restructuring Minor League Baseball (MiLB) and, in the process, eliminating as many as three of our five Minor League clubs. I write today to express my support for our Iowa MiLB teams and to ask you to reconsider the economic impact. Losing these teams for the State of Iowa would have a negative economic and cultural impact upon the citizens of Iowa.

The minor league organizations in Clinton, Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Davenport and Des Moines each have a positive impact not merely on the communities in which they are located, but in neighboring communities across our state and on the game of baseball itself. Iowa's MiLB teams bring significant economic opportunity to their towns. They support surrounding local businesses and are a magnet for attracting people to their host communities. They each are also significant job creators. These teams typically sustain more than 200 jobs apiece each year, and that number excludes players, coaches, managers, trainers and all of the other positions under the purview of MLB.

Iowa's Minor League Baseball teams also make significant charitable contributions to the communities they serve. They pay for free flu shots for local children, provide college scholarships to area families, and donate thousands of tickets and hundreds of thousands of dollars to non-profits and charitable causes in their regions. In small communities such as these, that kind of philanthropy simply cannot be replaced.

It is also important to note the millions of dollars of public and municipal investment that have gone into ensuring that Iowa's Minor League ballparks are in compliance with MLB facilities standards. Cities across our state recognize the economic impact that minor league clubs represent and, as a result, have funded millions of dollars in ballpark improvements.

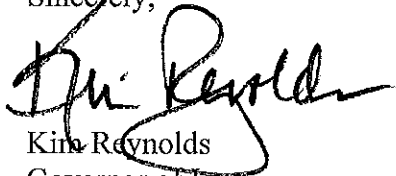
Additionally, our cities and towns are very proud of their teams and have demonstrated that pride by providing tax incentives, municipal bonds, debt forgiveness and reduced rent to make it possible for MiLB clubs to remain in their communities.

Finally, affiliated Minor League Baseball allows smaller communities in rural states such as ours to play a vital role in growing the game of baseball. Eliminating Minor League Baseball in our state would force even those Iowans who live closest to the border to travel 200 miles to attend a Major League Baseball game.

It is my hope that MLB and MiLB can come to terms on a new Professional Baseball Agreement that would maintain Iowa's five minor league teams, provide such clubs with a reasonable opportunity to make whatever facilities improvements are required by MLB and MiLB, and give them the opportunity to continue to serve their communities while allowing young baseball fans across our state to meet the next generation of MLB stars.

I strongly urge you to reconsider eliminating any of the five Minor League teams in our great state. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Kim Reynolds  
Governor of Iowa